1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Delhi	36	33	3	2
7.	Gauhati	23	23	Nil	Nil
8.	Gujarat	42	28	14	9
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9	9	Nil	Nil
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	9	5	4
11.	Jharkhand	12	9	3	2
12.	Karnataka	40	36	4	2
13.	Kerala	29	27	2	2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	42	41	1	Nil
15.	Madras	46	42	4	1
16.	Orissa	20	17	3	3
17.	Patna	31	29	2	Nil
18.	Punjab & Haryana	40	37	3	3
19.	Rajasthan	40	36	4	4
20.	Sikkim	3	1	2	1
21.	Uttaranchal	9	9	Nil	Nil
TOTAL		689	589	100	69

Time taken for granting mining lease

121. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the time taken for granting the mining lease in the country is more than five years, as compared to other countries, where the mining lease formalities are completed within two years;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take to reduce the time-period in granting mining lease to industries;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to delay in granting mining rights, small traders resort to corrupt practices of illegal mining, for sale to non-captive users at exorbitant prices; and

(d) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Some references have come to the notice of the Central Government where

the time taken for grant of mineral concession has been more than that prescribed in the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960. The High Level Committee (HLC) constituted by the Planning Commission has evaluated the reasons for the same and recommended measures for reducing the delays. Report of the HLC is available on the website of Ministry of Mines. (http://mines. nic.in/).

(c) and (d) Instances of illegal mining from time to time have come to the notice of the Central Government. State Governments have been empowered to frame rules under Section 23 C of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 for prevention of illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals etc. The Central Government has also directed State Governments to constitute task forces at State/District level for preventing illegal mining and the situation is being monitored.

Allocation of mining blocks

122. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received several representations requesting for giving adequate emphasis to value-added industries like steel, power and cement plants, by allocating mining blocks;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken in this direction, so far;

(c) whether Government would henceforth consider allocating mining blocks to captive industries on preferential basis as it would lead to growth of economic development in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI (REDDY): (a) to (d) Some representations have been received in the Ministry to give preference to value-adder in grant of mineral concession, including mining lease. Provisions already exist in the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder whereby State Government may give preference to a value adder while granting mineral concession.

Gold and diamond reserves

123. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, according to the estimates of Geological Survey of India, the country has 475 million carats of gold and diamond reserves, worth Rs. six lakh crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact mat the country imports nearly 800 tonnes of gold every year,

(d) if so, the reasons for non-exploration of such mineral-wealth; and

(e) the details of the private companies to whom leases for mining gold and diamond have been given, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) As per National Mineral Inventory prepared by Indian Bureau of Mines,